

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 115852

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:RPERSIKO

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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P 171000Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO SECDEF

CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 115852

EXDIS ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SINGAPORE DATED MAY 15, 1975 SENT

SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2059

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, VS, SN

SUBJ: SEVEN VNAF AIRCRAFT IN SINGAPORE

DEPT PASS SECDEF //ISA// AND CINCPAC

REF: SINGAPORE 1978

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER GOH ADVISED ME TODAY THAT GOS HAD DECIDED TO TURN OVER TO THE USG THE SEVEN FORMER VNAF AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY LOCATED IN SINGAPORE. HE REQUESTED THAT THEY BE REMOVED QUIETLY AND WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY. I POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THREE AIRCRAFT WERE IN CONDITION TO BE FLOWN OUT IMMEDIATELY (THE C-130 AND C-47 WHICH HAD BEEN FLOWN FROM VIETNAM WITH REFUGEES IN THE LAST WEEKS OF THE WAR) AND ONE OF THE FIVE C-130'S BEING REPAIRED BY LOCKHEED. I NOTED THAT THE REMAINING FOUR WERE STILL BEING RECONDITIONED AND WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED

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OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS WITH THE LAST DUE TO LEAVE IN SEP-

TEMBER. DR. GOH SAID THERE WAS NO HURRY ABOUT THEIR DEPARTURE.

2. I HAVE ASKED DAO TO ARRANGE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS TO HAVE CREWS BROUGHT IN TO FLY OUT THREE AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE READY TO FLY. WITH DR. GOH'S CONCURRENCE, I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED DAO TO ARRANGE TO HAVE U.S. MARKINGS PAINTED ON AIRCRAFT ASAP.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT ENSURE THAT DR. GOH'S REQUEST FOR QUIET REMOVAL AND NO PUBLICITY BE RESPECTED. I RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING TO PRESS QUERIES. HOWEVER, FOR THE TIME BEING I HAVE INSTRUCTED PAO TO ANSWER QUERIES ABOUT THE PLANES MERELY BY SAYING THAT THE SUBJECT IS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE GOS. REQUEST WASHINGTON FOLLOW SAME LINE. AFTER PLANES HAVE ACQUIRED U.S. MARKINGS AND THREE OR FOUR HAVE BEEN FLOWN OUT, WE WILL REVIEW PROBLEM OF HOW TO HANDLE PRESS QUERIES WITH GOS. REQUEST THIS MATTER BE COORDINATED WITH WHITE HOUSE AND DOD SPOKESMAN. CRANK UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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